

Weather Brief 20060116:

Surface Weather Conditions:

Today (Monday) we are still under the influence of the major frontal event that passed over the US a few days ago (to be specific, on Friday in Houston). This has produced somewhat stronger winds than normal over the Caribbean just upstream of Costa Rica, with the winds being more from the northeast than the typical easterlies. It also means we have a chance of some showers today.

By Tomorrow (Tuesday, January 17) we see a significant change in the weather pattern. Winds over the Caribbean will shift to the east. Winds will actually be weaker than normal, especially in the first part of the day (10-15 knots max from the ene). Some drizzle is possible in the morning. A return to seasonal normals in the wind is likely by the end of the day (15-20 knots ENE).

Another cold front passes over the Gulf of Mexico on Wednesday. The Caribbean winds shift to a more northerly component, and freshen. Hence, we expect surface winds to be seasonal, from the NNE (15-20 knots).

Science:

A TES validation flight is planned for tomorrow. The focus will be on the region that we expect to be relatively cloud free in the Caribbean.

We will discuss science possibilities for Wednesday and Thursday in an update to this briefing.